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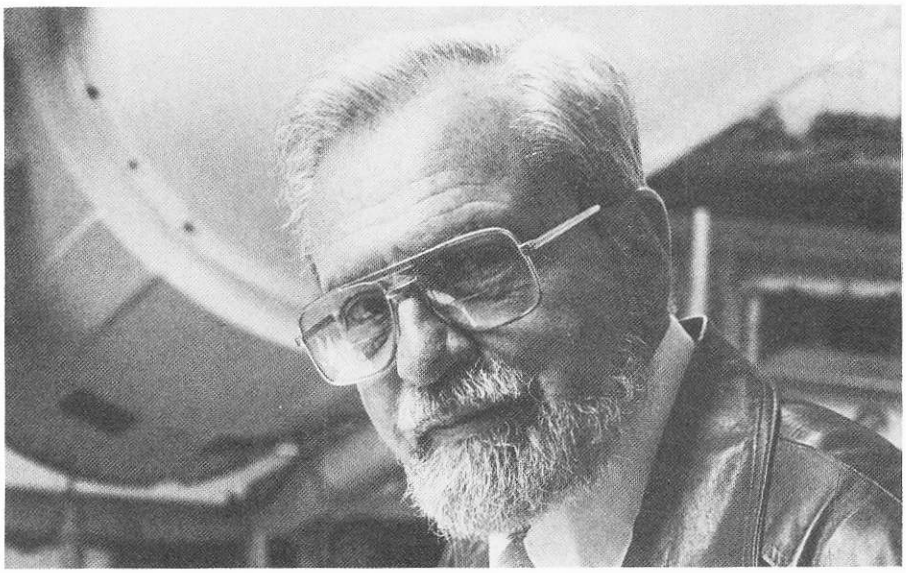

J. Allen Hynek
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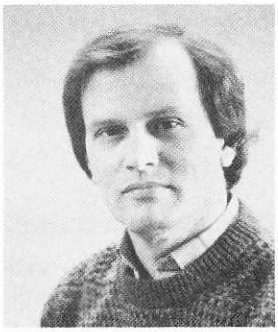
EDITORIAL

Paranoia



Jerome Clark

The late Gray Barker, who trafficked in publications chronicling contactee adventures, men in black and sinister cover-ups of various sorts, was fond of saying that nothing sells like paranoia. Every time he had a new product to move, he pitched it in language that spoke to the most elemental fears of his customers, many of them certain that their knowledge of the world's deepest secrets (the hollowness of the earth, for example) would bring enforcers from the Silence Group to their doorstep any day. Barker himself wrote the all-time paranoid classic with the all-time paranoid title, *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers.*

It's easy to laugh. Other people's paranoia is always funny. But what of our own?

These days paranoia — or anyway, deep suspicion; perhaps there is a difference — seems in style. This time the inspiration is the ongoing, ever-unresolved MJ-12 dispute. The spectrum of paranoia ranges from the mild (and probably defensible) to the pathological (as in see your psychiatrist). Fortunately the latter has afflicted few on the sober side of ufology, but it is running rampant on the wild side. Since the early 1950s contactee believers have maintained that ETs are here to serve man — that is, to offer to help us. Now a new school of unhinged types claims the ETs are here to serve man, by which they mean offering us up as helpings, presumably in some cosmic McDonald's. Anyone who believes this (and to note the obvious — that not a shred of evidence supports this strange and sick reading of the UFO data — is to dignify it in a way it does not deserve) has, let's not mince words, cracks in his pot.

In the sane world, where it is not generally held that the U.S. government is covering up its knowledge of man-eating aliens, paranoia manifests in speculation and rumor about the "true" nature of the MJ-12 briefing paper. The operating assumption is that it is not what it purports to be, a summary prepared for President-elect Eisenhower to inform him that the earth is being visited by extraterrestrials, two of whose craft have crashed on North American soil. The questions being raised are these:

Who wrote the document, if Adm. Hillenkoetter (the ostensible author) didn't? Was it a well-informed, nastily-clever ufologist putting one over on his gullible colleagues? Was it intelligence-agency personnel disseminating disinformation, either to hide real UFO secrets or to confuse the Soviets? Or — at the top of the paranoia hit parade — was it a ufologist consciously working in collusion with intelligence agents? If this last is true, just whom *can* we trust?

This week, as I write these words, I have heard serious charges leveled against two prominent figures in ufology. These charges were made by individuals who went to some length to list their reasons for entertaining suspicions that they acknowledge sound crazy. I am sure the ufologists at the receiving end of these accusations (which allege that they are collaborating with intelligence agencies involved in the cover-up) will be able to defend themselves and to explain the actions deemed suspicious. The mere fact that such accusations are being made by noncranks, however, illustrates how perilous UFO inquiry has become in the MJ-12 era.

By "perilous" I do not mean, of course, that anybody need fear for his life because he Knows Too Much About Flying Saucers (a conceit that, though widespread, has always done more to massage ufologists' egos than to truly frighten them). I refer instead to the problem of thinking through rationally what we may be up against, given the reality of a cover-up. (And there *is* a cover-up; if there were not, the U.S. government would have told us by now what it recovered in New Mexico in July 1947. We know that it was *not* a weather balloon and we know the recoverers knew that, too.)

One need not be a textbook-case paranoid or a conspiracy nut to recognize that yes, governments, even democratic ones, have secrets and ways of keeping them. They have intelligence agencies and, among their other tasks, these agencies' personnel track the spread of sensitive information, including rumors of same. They have established methods of dealing with leaks. In dictatorships leakers are easily dealt with: they're killed or sent off to remote gulags. In a democracy such as the United States, if outright treason is not involved, it's trickier. Generally the worst that happens is that the leaker, if his name is known, loses his job. Beyond that, the official agency involved will vigorously deny the accuracy of the information being leaked and hope that journalists covering the story will be gulled into believing the denial.

Few ufologists are aware that in the United States it is illegal for official agencies or individuals to circulate disinformation for domestic consumption. We all know,

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Strangeness in the night

by Jennie Zeidman

Jennie Zeidman, a long-time investigator of UFO reports and associate of Dr. Hynek, is a member of the CUFOS board of directors.

Ufologists no longer usually consider nocturnal lights or close encounters of the first kind as having high-strangeness quotients. Yet the experiences of two Ohio families seem strange indeed, and not amenable to easy answers.

At 8:25 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 1987, Rick Devine went out the back door of his large brick home to round up the family dogs and cats and to bring them home for the night. The Devines live on the main street of Shreve, hardly more than a village, about an hour's drive south of metropolitan Cleveland. Rick, 31, is a college administrator and his wife Janet, 38, is a teacher in the local schools. They have no children.

The sky was clear, the temperature in the low 40s. The wind was from the north-northwest and atypically gusty. The moon, one day old, was a fingernail crescent in the west.

Rick glanced up and noticed four "blobs" of light which were making continuous patterns of "clover-leaf" flight. Each blob was making an elliptical orbit, and the four lights had a common center of flight, meeting at the center point and then flying outward again, around their elliptical path. Perhaps, holding a four-leaf clover, one could imagine a photon of light traveling the perimeter of each leaf, the four photons simultaneously reaching the center of the flower (the stem) and then flinging themselves around the perimeter, again and again.

The blobs of light were "cool white," "luminescent" rather than actively glowing. The entire flight area of the four objects covered a considerable portion of the sky, probably at least 30 degrees. Rick could not see all of it at once without turning his head. The thing seemed to be only a few hundred feet high.

Rick did not think to time the "orbital period" of the objects, but from his reconstruction I think four to five seconds would be an approximate figure. True to Kepler's Second Law, the objects seemed to move slower when at the outer edges of the orbit and faster as they neared the center.

Rick shooed the animals inside (their behavior was normal) and called to Janet. She came outside almost immediately and they stood together — holding each other — trying to figure out what they were witnessing. Janet described rectangular plates, similar to sections of fluorescent lights as seen through ceiling panels. (Her vision is better than Rick's; although only 31, he already wears bifocals.) For Janet each rectangle was about two degrees in length (the diameter of two nickels held at arm's length).

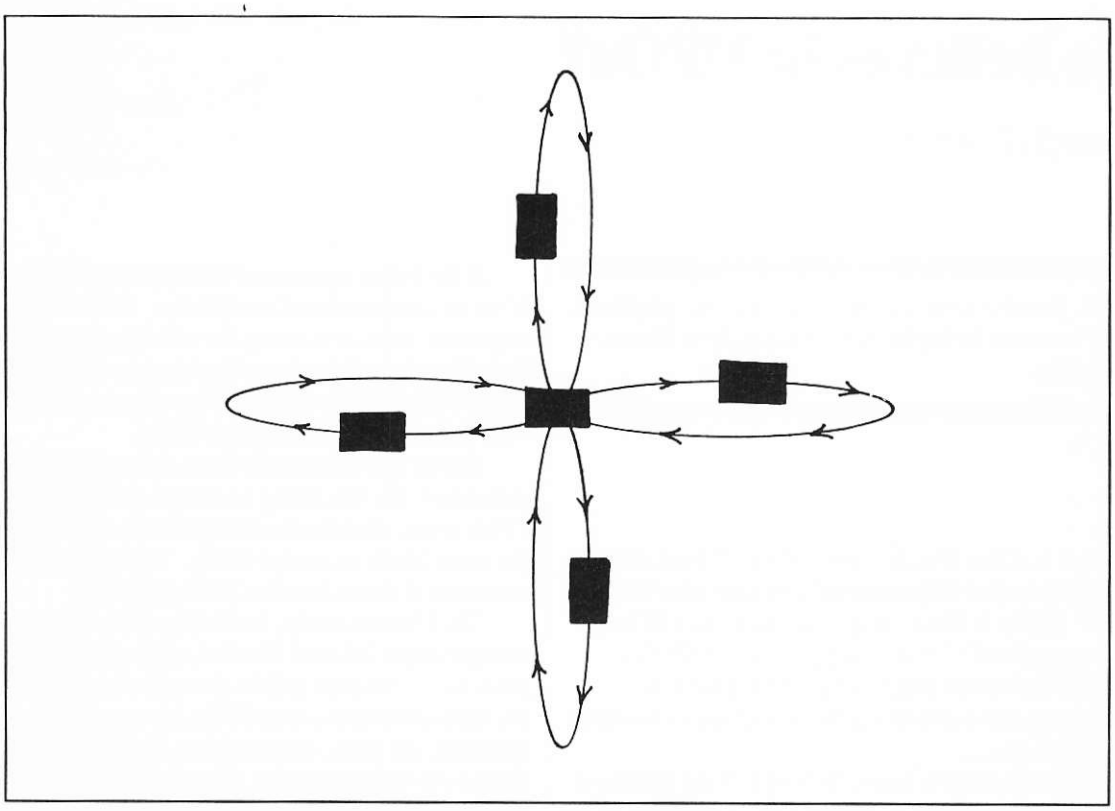
The object (meaning all four lights) was not quite overhead and the Devines started to move toward it, hoping to get directly underneath. As they approached it, the entire object began to move ahead, and Rick felt this to be an intelligently-directed response to their curiosity. "It had an affinity for us," he said. "It would move if we tried to get right under it. We tried but it wouldn't let us. I felt that my mission was to follow this thing. When I first saw it, I was scared. When it dawned on me what it might be, I knew Janet would want to be a part of it."

They held each other tightly ("If it was going to beam me up, I wanted Janet to go, too") and followed the object over the lawn, across the village road and around to the side of the school, which is directly across the street from their house. They saw several persons — villagers and probably some of the school-board members — leaving the monthly meeting, but no one seemed to be looking up. For some reason the Devines chose not to attract attention, either to themselves as observers or to the object itself.

When they reached the schoolyard, they sat down on a bench and continued watching. The four light globes or panels kept swirling around their common center point, always synchronized, always meeting at the center, then flinging themselves outward again with apparent increased momentum. At no time did the brightness change; when the blobs were all momentarily at the center point, their total intensity seemed no more than each in its individual orbit.

At no time was any other shape seen. At no time did the observers feel that these lights were attached to a single, larger object. Janet said the panels were "translucent but solid" — that is, they blotted out the background stars as they orbited. There was no sound or odor and no change of color. Airplanes, helicopters, searchlights and auroral effects were considered and searched for but none were observed.

The angular dimensions of the entire cloverleaf remained the same. In other words, the object did not appear to change altitude or aspect, relative to the observers. Seemingly it covered an area equivalent to a baseball diamond (the couple were sitting at the side of the school playing field and comparing sizes).



The Shreve, Ohio, "cloverleaf" UFO

The object moved back across the road and they followed. It was obscured behind a tall spruce tree for a few seconds, but was not below the tree height. Then, as they watched, the four panel/globs of light came together in the center, flew outward and this time continued onward, so that they finally disappeared 90 degrees from each other, diminishing and dispersing into different parts of the sky. The sighting lasted 35 minutes.

In a second instance of dispersing nocturnal lights, I interviewed the Dicenzo family who maintain a small farm and weekend residence in the rural and rugged southern Ohio hills.

On an early autumn evening in 1987 (exact date and time unknown), after a mild and windy day, Rich and Kathy Dicenzo, their four children and a family friend were sitting on the sidewalk along the south side of the house, enjoying the clear sky and a campfire Rich had made in the front yard. There was sufficient ambient light so that the sky was not entirely dark; yet many stars were visible. Perhaps they would see a meteor.

Suddenly, overhead, progressing from in back of them over the roof of the house from the north, a dark shape appeared, gradually blotting out the stars in a precise boomerang shape. The perimeter of the shape was covered with from 12 to 20 distinct, individual lights.

All insect and tree-frog sound and distant dog-barking stopped. The campfire flame rose straight up, as frozen as the stylized campfire in a Boy Scout poster. The aspen tree in the front yard ceased "quaking" and the children gasped.

"Just east of the zenith I first saw the stars winking out and soft, slightly yellowish lights moving due south over the house's edge," Rich told me. "The dark gray shape and two or more rows of lights began to dominate more and more of the sky [and became] an ever-widening wing-arc of lights. I stood up for a better view . . . [and said] 'What is this, *Close Encounters*, or what?' The scale was so grandiose."

The object, soundless, was low, its shape extending beyond the 72-foot length of the house. It took perhaps six or seven seconds to come fully into view.

After maybe a minute had passed, the light configuration wobbled a bit, the lights shifted quickly through amber toward red and the object split, first into two sections, and then the right (western) section split again. The three sections spread out and dissipated rather than becoming smaller as they went away.

"As it departed, the left side banked and rolled," Rich said. "It came over the house extremely slowly, but when it decided to go, it was just gone." At that point the entire family heard a "sort of rolling thunder," but the sound seemed unrelated to the object, and they felt it could have been a distant jet many thousands of feet away. Sounds and movements of the world resumed. Boomerang shapes are of course not unknown in the UFO

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Who believes in UFOs?

by Stanton T. Friedman

Stanton T. Friedman is an American nuclear physicist and UFO lecturer living in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The late J. Allen Hynek once told me, "Stan, the problem is that 90 percent of scientists don't believe in UFOs." Philip J. Klass, whose views about UFOs are quite the opposite of Hynek's, suggests in *UFOs Explained* (1974) that the proper ratio of believers to nonbelievers in the engineering and scientific community is about one to 11.

Both are seriously in error. It is one of the ironies of the UFO controversy that proponents and opponents often seem to agree even when facts clearly contradict their mutually-accepted belief. For instance, both groups have proclaimed that interstellar travel and right-angle turns at high speed violate the laws of physics or are impossible. But less easy to disprove in the past than either of these myths has been the idea that people in general, and scientists in particular, are almost all scoffers.

In fact, opinion polls give a radically different picture of current American attitudes concerning UFOs and life in outer space.

Gallup polls about UFOs were taken in 1966, 1975, 1978 and 1987. All showed an extremely high awareness score. This means that almost everybody (about 95 percent of those queried) had heard of UFOs. Table 1 summarizes response to the question: "In your opinion, are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?"

No definition was given for "UFOs" or "real." The question obviously does not discriminate between those who say UFOs are real and can be identified and those who claim that some UFOs, because of their appearance and behavior, are intelligently-controlled extraterrestrial vehicles. Most responses probably assumed the question was: "Do you think UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles?"

Note that the ratio of believers to nonbelievers since 1966 has been greater than 1.5. The pre-1978 poll publicity, however, stressed only the percentage saying "real" and ignored those who were "unsure." And in 1966 news headlines read, "46% Believe UFOs Real." Many people consequently were misled into thinking that therefore 54 percent believed that UFOs are imaginary. Actually, the percentage who thought UFOs are imaginary was only 29 percent.

A far better measure of belief is the listed percentage of those who expressed an opinion. This is especially important when evaluating the effects of age and education, two of the most important factors influencing views on UFOs (although they have no effect on the percentage who claim to have observed a UFO).

Gallup and other polls have shown that the older an individual, the less likely to accept the possibility that UFOs exist. Better-educated persons, on the other hand, are more likely to accept UFOs. Table 2 provides a clear summary of these data for 1978 and 1987.

The Condon study, headed by University of Colorado astrophysicist Edward Condon, also conducted opinion polls to see what the public thought about UFOs. While the report concludes that UFOs do not merit serious attention, the polls, conducted in 1968 and 1969, confirmed the Gallup results. These data clearly contradict the idea that only kooks, quacks or little old ladies in tennis shoes believe in UFOs — and that is why these polls are usually ignored by debunkers. Condon noted the positive effect of education in his summary but added, "Perhaps this result says something about how the school system trains students in critical thinking." By 1971 Condon was assuring reporters that most Americans share his view that UFOs do not exist.

The education data logically suggest that engineers and scientists would be likely to accept UFOs as fact, despite the comments of Hynek and Klass. Table 3 provides the results of a survey of engineers and scientists involved in research and development activities. The poll was conducted by *Industrial Research and Development Magazine*, a controlled-circulation periodical with a mailing list of about 100,000. The magazine takes a monthly reader reply card poll of professional views on a variety of topics.

The 1979 replies can be summarized as follows:

(1) Of those who expressed an opinion in 1979, 69 percent said UFOs are definitely or probably real, up slightly from 64 percent in 1971.

(2) In 1979, of those who expressed an opinion as to the origin of UFOs, 59 percent said they are extraterrestrial, up from 49 percent in 1971.

(3) The older the individual, the less likely to accept UFOs as existing.

(4) Eight percent claimed to have observed UFOs. Ten percent said perhaps.

Of special interest from the pre-Watergate 1971 poll is the fact that 80 percent did not believe that the conclusions of the Condon report were definitive and that 76 percent did not believe that the government had revealed

In your opinion are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?

Responses given for those who have heard or read about UFOs

Year	1966	1973	1978	1987
% Real	46	54	57	49
% Real*	61	64	68	60
% Imaginary	29	30	27	30
% Not sure	25	16	16	21
Ratio of real to imaginary	1.59	1.8	2.11	1.63

*Percentage of those expressing an opinion – leaves out "not sure."

Table 1: **Gallup polls**

In your opinion are UFOs something real or just people's imagination?

Factors	% Real		%*		% Imaginary		% Not sure	
Age	**1978**	**1987**	**1978**	**1987**	**1978**	**1987**	**1978**	**1987**
Less than 30	70	53	78	62	20	32	10	15
30-49	63	57	73	73	23	21	14	22
Over 30	40	36	51	48	38	39	22	25
Education (1978)								
College	66	—	74	—	23	—	11	—
High school	57	—	68	—	27	—	16	—
Grade school	36	—	49	—	38	—	26	—
Education (1987)								
Attended college	—	56	—	68	—	26	—	18
No college	—	44	—	57	—	33	—	23

*Percentage of those expressing an opinion – leaves out "not sure."

Table 2: **Gallup polls**

Question 1. **Do you believe that UFOs exist?**

	Percentage in 1971	Percentage in 1979
Definitely	20	27
Probably	34	34
Undecided	15	12
Probably not	23	20
Definitely not	8	8

Question 6. **If you consider the possibility of UFO existence, where do you think they originate?**

	Percentage in 1971	Percentage in 1979
USA	5	2
Communist nations	1	below 1
Outer space	32	44
Natural phenomena	27	28
Undecided	35	26

Percentage who responded "definitely" or "probably" to question 1 as a function of age (1979 only)

	Percentage of respondents	Percentage saying "definitely" or "probably" to question 1
Below 26	4	82
26-35	28	70
36-45	28	59
46-55	25	57
56-65	13	48
Over 65	1	35

Note: Overall 23 percent of the respondents had a Ph.D., another 25 percent had an M.S. and 40 percent had a B.S.

Table 3: Industrial Research and Development **poll**

Are there people like us on other planets?

	% Yes		%* Yes		% No		% Not sure	
1966	34		42.5		46		20	
1973	46		55		38		16	
1978	51		61		33		16	
1987	50		60		34		16	
Age	**1973**	**1987**	**1973**	**1987**	**1973**	**1987**	**1973**	**1987**
18-24	66		71.7		26		8	
25-29 (18-29, 1987)	60	52	66.7	59	30	36	10	12
30-49	49	56	56.9	62	37	35	14	9
50 & older	31	42.4	40.3	56	46	33	23	25
Education (1973)								
College	58		66.7		29		13	
High school	47		55.3		38		15	
Grade school	29		37.2		49		22	
Education (1987)								
Attended college	57		63		33		10	
No college	46		57		35		19	

* Percentage of those expressing an opinion.

Table 4: **Gallup polls**

all its information concerning UFOs. Clearly, pro-UFO attitudes and the notion of government cover-up are not confined to a small group of wild-eyed fanatics or paranoid extremists.

Peter Sturrock, a plasma physicist at Stanford University, conducted a survey of American Astronomical Society members in 1975. While he asked different questions from either the Gallup or *Industrial Research and Development* polls, he, too, found that the older the individual and the fewer UFO books read, the less likely to think that UFOs might exist. Despite Harvard astronomer Donald Menzel's vigorous public anti-UFO stand, which undoubtedly had an influence on Dr. Sturrock's respondents, 53 percent said the UFO problem certainly or probably deserves scientific study. About five percent of the respondents said they had seen UFOs.

Gert Herb, of Chicago, has almost single-handedly conducted a large poll of active amateur astronomers. These astronomers generally spend far more time scanning an uncluttered sky than the American Astronomical Society members. He found that of 1805 responses, an amazingly high 23.9 percent had "observed an object which resisted [their] . . . most exhaustive efforts at identification." Overall, 8.2 percent had had a "high-strangeness sighting." Only six percent of the sighters were skeptical about UFOs.

On April 28, 1974, the San Diego television station KFMB asked its listeners to call in "yes" or "no" to the question "Do you believe that UFOs have brought intelligent visitors to earth from outer space?" The question was asked in conjunction with a debate about UFOs between me and Elie A. Shneour, a former member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Extraterrestrial Life. A total of 361 (75 percent) said yes and only 116 said no.

An educational television network, TV Ontario, had a debate on UFOs between me on the pro side and Robert F. Garrison, a University of Toronto astronomer, on the con side. The question on the February 3, 1983, program *Speaking Out* was, "Do you believe that some UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft?" The tally was recorded electronically in response to calls placed to two numbers, one for yes and the other for no. A total of 1244 votes was recorded with 908 (74 percent) being yes and only 336 (26 percent) being no. Presuming that the average educational attainment of the viewers of this show is higher than for the population at large, it is interesting that the vote matches the percentage of those with a college education who said UFOs are "real" in the 1978 Gallup poll as noted in Table 2.

On March 14, 1988, debunker Philip Klass and I appeared on a live, widely-distributed TV program

People Are Talking in Secaucus, New Jersey. A telephone poll was conducted using the Gallup poll question, without the "not sure" category. Eighty-three percent of the callers said UFOs are "real."

The connection between age and education of the respondent and his beliefs is particularly obvious with regard to the question of the existence of extraterrestrial life. Of course, if a person believes that man is alone in the universe, in his mind no alien spacecraft can be visiting earth. The Gallup question was, "Do you think there are people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe, or not?" Table 4 provides the answers.

It is clear that there has been a substantial shift in attitudes in the past 25 years. But belief in the existence of extraterrestrial life does not necessarily entail acceptance of extraterrestrial visitations. After all, SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) enthusiasts such as Carl Sagan accept the former but not the latter — thus ensuring, in effect, that radio astronomers keep their "special" role in intercivilization communication.

Nonacceptance of extraterrestrial life and UFOs by older people appears to be the result of early science education. The primary view of solar-system formation from 1920 through the 1950s was that it was caused by a very rare collision between two stars. Because stars are so far apart, it is easy to conclude that collisions have not happened anywhere else. Today, very few are being taught that our solar system is unique. The success of the manned space programs has been at least partially responsible, too, for demonstrating that space travel is possible. Many younger people are not aware of the anti-space-travel attitudes of the astronomical and journalistic communities a few decades ago. A good example of the professional scientist's attitude then is a statement by Lee DeForest, the father of modern electronics:

> To place a man in a multi-stage rocket and project him into the controlling gravitational field of the moon, where the passengers can make scientific observations, perhaps land alive, and then return to earth: all that constitutes a wild dream worthy of Jules Verne. I am bold enough to say that such a man-made moon voyage will never occur regardless of all future scientific advances.

Dr. DeForest uttered these words on February 25, 1957, just 12 years before Apollo 11.

Yet despite all the evidence indicating that acceptance of extraterrestrial visitations to earth is an enlightened and well-accepted idea, most people still seem to believe that everyone else is a nonbeliever. I have personally checked many dozens of groups at campuses across the continent and have found that typically 80 percent of the group do not believe that most people believe in UFOs — even though about 80 percent of the checked group do. And people often act on the basis of what they perceive to be society's views rather than their own. Hence, fear of ridicule is a major concern. It obviously must influence whether or not an individual will report a UFO sighting, will investigate one, will have graduate students work on UFO-related thesis topics or will assign reporters to cover a UFO story or to help blow the lid off the cosmic Watergate that I believe UFOs represent.

Herbert Strentz's comments about press coverage in his 1970 Ph.D. thesis illustrate the problem:

> The high degree of ridicule present in the UFO phenomenon was reflected in the press coverage. . . . The coverage has been marked by superificiality, redundancy, silliness, careless reporting, and lack of relevant information. . . . [T]he lack of relevant information was also attributable to the reluctance of the press to ferret out information about the phenomenon and those involved in it.

Here are two excellent examples of the press coverage concerning the Gallup polls:

According to *Science* (August 20, 1976), "The number of people believing in Flying Saucers remains at about six percent of the adult population, according to the Gallup polls." The *Los Angeles Times* was even more off-track: "A two-year-old Gallup poll reported that more than three million Americans believe flying saucers are real. But that still leaves 98 percent of the country somewhat doubtful" (September 27, 1973). Both of these esteemed publications were completely in error and both refused to publish corrections, even after receiving copies of the relevant Gallup polls.

In my experience as a lecturer on UFOs at more than 600 colleges in 50 states and eight provinces, and as the recipient of thousands of questions after lectures, in classrooms and during interviews, I can state confidently that extreme skepticism toward UFOs is a minority view — albeit a noisy one. ■

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Coming in IUR...

CE3 and possible landing traces
by Ann Druffel

Ufology in Europe; or, what is America coming to?
by Edoardo Russo and Gian Paolo Grassino

How to make your own Gulf Breeze photos
by Wim van Utrecht

The UFO phenomenon in Hungary
by Karoly Hargitai

Pendulum from the Pleiades

by Bruce Maccabee

Bruce Maccabee, Ph.D., is a research physicist at the U.S. Naval Surface Weapons Center. He is chairman of the Fund for UFO Research.

Although the 8 mm movie film taken by contactee Billy Meier of Switzerland has been available to others for many years, I did not receive a copy until November 1988. The copy that I have seen is contained in a videotape made by Jun-ichi Yaoi and the Japanese film team that visited Meier in the fall of 1979. Yaoi videotaped the movie screen as Meier projected his movie film. The film shows several different UFO-filming sessions all spliced together.

As I viewed this videotape I realized that the camera was always stationary as the UFOs moved into and out of view. Meier did not pan the camera with the UFO to keep it centered, even though he certainly could have done so during most of the filmings. Meier actually appeared in the movie film during one sighting, but for the rest of the film sequences he was not seen. I also observed that often a UFO would wobble when it moved.

I was particularly interested in the section that appears to show a UFO moving back and forth over a tree which appears to be between the camera and a distant farmhouse. Meier claimed that he got this film in February or March 1975. Yaoi filmed from the same location and his film shows the farmhouse but no trees. According to Meier the tree was killed by the spacecraft and subsequently removed by the Pleiadeans.

This section of film shows the "standard" Meier disc-shaped UFO with a superstructure. The image, at least as it appears in the videotape, is not in perfect focus (nor is the background image of the tree or the farmhouse). My attention was drawn particularly to this section of his film because of the nature of the motion of the UFO: the object moves back and forth periodically in an arc or in an ellipse. The film shows that initially the UFO was stationary over the tree at the center of the picture. The UFO then slowly moved to the left and upward in an arc. It accelerated to the right and downward in an arc and passed, apparently, over the tree and then upwards in an arc as it continued to the right. It reversed direction and again traveled downward over the tree.

The amplitude of the subsequent left-right oscillatory motion then decreased to nearly zero, after which the amplitude of motion increased again and remained large for many seconds. Whereas the initial motion was simply from the left to the right and back again, the subsequent large amplitude motion of the UFO made an elliptical path as viewed on the screen. It may be that the motion at this time was actually in a circular path in a horizontal plane but the path appears in the film to be elliptical because of the oblique viewing direction (from below and off to one side). Several times the UFO almost disappeared at the left of the field of view of the videotape. Then the amplitude reduced gradually back down to zero so that once again the UFO was apparently over the tree.

To those with a fundamental physics or mechanics background I would say that the initial motion appears to be that of a weight (a "bob") attached to a cord, i.e., a simple planar pendulum, undergoing a series of oscillations (i.e., moving back and forth within a vertical plane). The plane of the motion was initially nearly perpendicular to the line of sight. The oscillation began after the UFO moved slowly and steadily to the left and upward in an arc. The center of the arc is above the field of view of the camera. The initial sideways displacement could have been accomplished with an invisible cord attached to the UFO. The UFO then accelerated downward and to the right following an arc-shaped path. The impression one gains from looking at this initial motion is that the UFO was released so that it could swing. It appears that, as time went on, the pulling cord was manipulated in such a way as to convert the planar oscillation into a circular (or elliptical) motion like that of a conical (or elliptical) pendulum. During this non-planar motion the UFO appears on the screen to travel in an elliptical path with a nearly horizontal major axis. As it travels in this path the angular size of the UFO changes periodically, with the largest angular size (closest position of the UFO) occurring at the top of the ellipse and the smallest angular size (farthest position of the UFO) occurring at the bottom of the ellipse (nearest the tree).

Because of the oblique viewing direction (from below) this sort of motion, as viewed on the screen, is consistent with the assumption that the actual path of the "UFO" was circular within a horizontal (planar) surface or elliptical, lying on a spherical surface centered at the suspension point. Never once did the UFO disappear *behind* the tree, even though its circular motion would have allowed it to do so if the suspension point were above the tree and low enough. On one swing it did appear to contact the very top branch of the tree. The camera was stationary during this whole film segment.

As I watched this the first time, I realized that the UFO was undergoing a periodic motion relative to the tree. I therefore decided to assume that it was actually a pendulum (and not a Pleiadean spacecraft) and *to calculate the length of the suspension from the period of the pendulum.*

Probably most people (including Meier) don't realize it, but the period a planar pendulum (the time to swing to the left and back to the right again) and also the period of a conical pendulum (the time to swing around in a horizontal circle) is determined by the length of the suspension and does not depend on the mass of the pendulum (because the inertial mass equals the gravitational mass). The period also depends upon the amplitude of the motion, but this is a second order effect for the small angles of swing, less than 20°, observed on the film). The following equation can be used to calculate the period of both linear and conical pendulums (when the amplitude of motion is not large) when the length from the suspension point to the pendulum bob (the weight at the end of the suspension) is known: $T = (2\ p)(L/g)^{0.5}$. In English units, with L in feet and g, the acceleration of gravity, equal to 32 ft/sec^2, the period is in seconds. This equation predicts that *if the suspension length is constant the period will be constant.* But this equation is correct only if no external forces other than gravity are applied to the pendulum. The period is changed when forces are applied to the pendulum bob to change its direction of swing. In this case it is clear that forces were applied to the "UFO" because both the direction and amplitude of the motion were changed while it was moving. Therefore one would not expect to find the period exactly constant.

One could say that the *near constancy of the period is a prediction of the pendulum hypothesis* — a prediction to be tested. Another prediction which applies to a simple planar pendulum is that the motion would be along an upward-curving arc centered on the suspension point (the center of curvature) that is higher than the pendulum bob. Yet another prediction of the pendulum hypothesis is that the speed of the "UFO" would be largest at the lowest point in the swing (directly below the suspension point) and that it would reduce to zero as the "UFO" moved left or right to its maximum displacement from the center. Both of these predictions have been verified.

In order to verify the predicted near constancy of the period, I timed several of the cycles. I found the following values: 5.2, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 3.9, 4.2, 4.8, and 4.9 seconds. During these cycles the motion changed from that of a planar pendulum to that of a conical (or elliptical) pendulum. Clearly the period varied, but not by much. As pointed out above, such variations would occur if the forces were applied to the pendulum bob in order to

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Never to have reasoned at all: Robert Basil and the skeptics' silence

by Thomas E. Bullard

Thomas E. Bullard, Ph.D., a folklorist, has researched and written about UFO beliefs. He is the author of the two-volume *Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery* (1987), the most comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon in print.

This brief polemic is occasioned by the latest skeptical retread from Prometheus Press, *Not Necessarily the New Age*, edited by Robert Basil, 1988. His introduction rounds up the usual suspects, such as psychic phenomena, channeling and meditation, this time drawn together under the rubric of "New Age" beliefs, and in a few short pages proves to the satisfaction of anyone already convinced that all these beliefs are not only wrong but menacing to truth, justice and the American Way.

Of course UFOs could not escape. They rate less than a page; yet as always it is not the quantity but the thought that counts. Basil quotes a defender of channeling as saying, "If research shows that discarnate entities are nothing more than manifestations of the unconscious minds of their channelers, the data we gather on this phenomenon cannot help but teach us more about ourselves and the mysterious workings of the human brain." Basil continues:

> That ain't saying much, but it's said a lot throughout New Age apologetics. Here, for example, is the *International UFO Reporter* attempting to refute Philip Klass' criticism of "UFO abductions":
>
> "Klass chides ufologists for becoming progressively credulous towards abductions, but in fact they have only responded to accumulating evidence that something unusual is going on and needs investigation. They may be incautious and they may be wrong, but they have made a more genuine effort first to meet the evidence on its own terms and then to decide what it means than the members of CSICOP [The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal], who start out with a litany of reasons why such evidence cannot exist. Who follows the spirit of science and who the letter?
>
> "Whatever abductions prove to be, they offer an opportunity for new knowledge, if not about aliens then about mental processes, the origin of cultural traditions, and the social development of beliefs."
>
> That UFOlogists have to defend their practice as the study of social pathology is as pathetic as it is sophistic.

The pleasures of an author in descending order are to write, to be read and to be understood. As the author of the offending passage, in a review of Klass' book *UFO Abductions — A Dangerous Game* (*IUR*, November/December 1987), I have two out of three reasons to be happy. I wrote and I was read. A desire for anything more may seem greedy. Yet the quoted remarks come near the end of a long and detailed criticism of Klass' argument, a criticism Basil must reject as unconvincing even though he never confides his reasons to his readers.

Being ignored pains even the most robust sense of self-esteem. Now, I realize he is having a great deal of fun lambasting one "New Age" belief after another. He is clearly on a roll and to stop for tiresome argument is about as easy as holding back a freight train running a downhill grade. I sympathize with the problem. At the same time some responsibility goes hand in hand with the entertainment, an obligation for fairness and balance of treatment incumbent on anyone who assumes the role of serious social critic in print. For those who feel too strictured by such rules, a career in tabloid television beckons.

Progress in scholarship depends in large part on dialogue. Dialogues allow scholars with opposing opinions to come peaceably together and iron out their differences point by point. At the end of a dialogue, knowledge of the subject has advanced a step because the controversy is clarified, even if not settled. Weak arguments are cleared away, strong arguments given room to thrive. If one case or other is too flimsy, it dies. If different sides of the controversy remain vital, they continue to interact and understanding of the subject grows in a widening and deepening gyre. Dialogues are unpopular in some circles. Socrates favored dialogues, and look where that got him. Politicians favor speeches where they can promise everything to everyone but shun dialogues because questions can raise the ugly head of reality. Now we have campaigns that are puppet shows with photo opportunities, not national debates over important issues.

Phil Klass raised important questions about UFO abductions in his book. Conscientious ufologists could not continue with their former beliefs and practices as if nothing had happened. Klass had barred the way with his challenge and unless ufologists could meet it successfully, in the proper spirit of dialogue, they would have to acknowledge that he was right or else detour into some neverland of belief fantasies where truth is subjective only.

In fact ufologists met his challenge. One such answer was my review. Its purpose was to refute his

objections using the results of my own research and the shortcomings of his arguments. Of course I think I did a splendid job. More importantly, no skeptic has risen to my counterchallenge and shown that I am wrong. The dialogue has stalled there; the ball is in the skeptics' court, as the saying goes, and Basil only delays the game by returning to the past in his introduction. His argument rushes by as if no response to Klass had been forthcoming, no doubts had been raised. I am not so naive as to believe that my review would convert the committed skeptics, but I had hoped it would trouble them enough to respond. If skeptics care so much about truth, reason and science as they profess, they are honor-bound to dialogue. Otherwise I must assume that all those fine phrases are as sincere as a TV evangelist's sermons on chastity.

What Basil's introduction criticizes is almost as peculiar as what it ignores. The quotation from my review admits the possibility that abductions may not represent literal contacts with aliens, but whatever they are, they constitute a strange phenomenon worthy of study from a number of perspectives and by diverse disciplines. The victim just ahead of me took a drubbing for the same kind of sentiments, so the reason for censure seems clear enough. These days you just can't win. Some ufologists chide me for being weak-kneed and wishy-washy because I express any doubts about abductions, and now I catch skeptical flack for my own modest measure of skepticism. Fence-straddler has never been an honored role. Nowadays it seems to have become a dangerous one, meaning nothing more than an elevated target.

Doubts about the existence of an abduction phenomenon and uncertainties about its nature are two very different matters. Ufologists argue the interpretation of abductions, and argue it vigorously. No other topic has kept them off the streets and out of trouble so successfully during the past few years. A variety of suggestions have been the result, and not all of them just another way of saying aliens in spaceships. Doubts about interpretation are natural and healthy, a necessary consequence of abduction claims themselves and our far-from-perfect knowledge about them. Some ufologists may propose explanations for abductions in haste and unwisely, with excessive certitude and without much regard for alternatives. Some of these same ufologists have investigated reports, interviewed witnesses and analyzed cases. At least these ufologists have earned the right to hypothesize about the nature of the reports, a right few skeptics can claim. Yet the certitude of skeptics grows in inverse proportion to their investigative experience. This situation hardly sounds scientific. In fact it sounds positively medieval.

On the other hand, to acknowledge the existence of an abduction phenomenon of some sort should provoke no comment at all. Such acknowledgement admits nothing more than the existence of abduction reports, a matter about as controversial as whose image appears on a Lincoln penny. People report capture by alien beings; people are upset by the experience; they tell stories with some degree of consistency; professional psychologists and psychiatrists who have investigated a number of these reports are unwilling to dismiss them out of hand, while similar professionals who reject these reports usually have investigated one case or none.

These points are simple, uncontroversial facts. They constitute a phenomenon at least in an everyday sense and very probably in a more formal sense. They are intriguing enough to pique the curiosity of anyone with more curiosity than a log. They deserve attention, whatever their ultimate cause, and more involvement from investigators than prepackaged assertions from armchair skeptics. Facts are a good place to start scientific investigations. Ufologists start with them and thereby follow the rules of science, whereas the skeptics start with a faith that some topics are forbidden *a priori*. Again the cloister comes to mind, along with suspicions that the crime of the ufologists is heresy rather than bad science.

My quoted words expressed simply this belief that the abduction phenomenon deserves tolerance, open-mindedness and study, even if no remarkable physical basis is involved. Such a plea hardly seems exceptionable; yet Basil's comments describe it as no less than "pathetic." Yes, there is some pathos there, but only that so minimally reasonable a plea should fall on deaf ears. Again his remarks seem to confuse the interpretation with the claims to be interpreted when he labels my plea sophistic. Where is the specious reasoning in allowing that some strange stories from scared people might concern students of psychology, society and culture? By what reasoning does he apply the rubber stamp of disapproval as if his case were self-evident? My response must be this: Better to have reasoned and lost than never to have reasoned at all.

Basil's remarks leave the disturbing impression that any subject of interest as a social, psychological or cultural phenomenon is in fact of no interest at all. The truth is, most universities these days consist of a small college of arts and sciences attached to a large business school, but even a quick look at the course catalogue shows that the academic curriculum offers more than physical science. Has skepticism run so rampant that it sees no value in any other kind of inquiry? A full understanding of most subjects includes social, psychological and cultural aspects, and UFOs are no exception. Whatever their physical nature, even if they prove to be nothing more than stars and airplanes, their cultural impact has been enormous. The UFO as a cultural phenomenon is a rich and perfectly legitimate subject of study. The psychology of UFO observation and the sociology of unconventional belief have been and continue to be topics for significant scholarly publications. To study is not the same as to advocate, after all,

or else every Prometheus author is in grave danger of contamination.

This same caution should be heeded by ufologists as well. For too long the UFO question has been one of polarities: UFOs are spaceships or UFOs do not exist at all. The ufologists come down on one side, the skeptics on the other; then both circle the wagons to ward off all comers. Spaceships are a more exciting prospect by far than beliefs about spaceships, but even if the craft landed on the White House lawn tomorrow and settled the reality question once and for all, most of the UFO phenomenon still would consist of beliefs and personal narratives, what people have made out of the prospects for otherworldly encounters. The social, psychological and cultural aspects of the phenomenon are more than just flotsam and jetsam washing around the central question. These matters are important in their own right. They deserve study as an integral part of the phenomenon whatever the ultimate nature of UFOs.

Nothing could be more harmful than this polarization to the search for truth — and I assume we are all engaged in that pursuit, even if some are working harder at it than others. A demand for absolute answers, an insistence that one position be right and all others wrong, a desire to win at all costs, poisons the atmosphere and threatens to do untold harm to the search process.

Opponents are valued parts of any healthy controversy. They keep proponents on their toes, prevent complacency and raise the standards of research. Enemies are another matter. They simply make proponents mad, and vice-versa. The relationship between ufologists and skeptics today is largely that of enemies.

Basil's introduction engages the rhetoric of provocation because he offers conclusions and innuendos rather than arguments, proclamations instead of reasons. My review is an ''attempt'' to refute Klass. The attempt must have failed, but how does Basil know? By revelation? By extrasensory perception? His audience may take his conclusions for granted, but I do not, and neither will other ufologists. Preaching to the converted is the easy way out; hardened sinners are the real challenge, the most critical of all audiences. They may be persuaded by force of reason but never by loudness of assertion. The rolled eyes and hyperbole of the ''shocked and appalled'' school of criticism simply will not do. It begins to sound more like a defense of territory than a defense of truth.

The same lesson holds for ufologists in dealing with opponents. UFOs, and especially abductions, are far from obvious propositions. Reading too much interpretation into too few data will persuade the unconvinced in only one way — that proponents are gullible, not that they are right. Relying too much on the literature and arguments of proponents to the exclusion of other points of view, including skeptics', is no way to gain a broad perspective on the UFO subject, either. Here again the necessity for dialogue is clear. More thinking about each other's arguments (when present) and less shouting past each other in the dark can only shed light where all too often we have had only heat.

I will close with a final word of friendly concern for Prometheus Press: You are in a rut. Too many of your authors are cheating you with stale rhetoric and outmoded tactics. If you wish to continue your career of bashing the extranormal, raise your standards by insisting on some fresh approaches. Otherwise your future is clear and limited — you will achieve the ultimate skeptical opus by condensing all the noise and outrage of the familiar pseudoarguments into a single book. No subject matter will be included, just empty space where the substance usually fits in. Then the reader will have the all-purpose book of fill-in-the-blank skepticism. After that achievement you will have nothing left to do and no choice but to fold, leaving to starve the orphans and widows you are now supporting. There's still time, brother! ■

Itinerary for John P. Timmerman and the CUFOS UFO photo exhibit

April 21-23:
New London Mall, New London, Maryland

May 19-21:
Penn-Can Mall, Clay, New York (near Syracuse)

June 2-4:
Franklin Mall, Franklin, Ohio (near Middletown)

June 9-11:
River Valley Mall, Lancaster, Ohio

June 16-18:
Pavilion Mall, Tukwila, Washington (near Seattle)

July 7-9:
Northtown Mall, Dallas, Texas

July 21-23:
Indian Mound Mall, Heath, Ohio (near Columbus)

August 4-6:
Decatur Celebration, Decatur, Illinois

August 18-20:
Walnut Mall, Petersburg, Virginia (near Richmond)

August 25-27:
Lebanon Valley Mall, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Letters

In defense of mystery circles

To the editor:

I am writing in regard to Paul Fuller's "Mystery Circles: Myth in the Making" (*IUR*, May/June 1988).

I have long been interested in the mysterious circles and sets of circles appearing during the summer months since 1979 or 1980. I have conducted an intensive investigation and have dealt with more than 50 English farmers, investigators, meteorologists and others. I have contacted more than 10 different official meteorological agencies in France, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. I have learned the following:

(1) These sets of several circles occur only in a specific area of southern England and nowhere else. In other words, this is not a universal phenomenon.

(2) According to all the official meteorological agencies I have contacted in four countries, these sets of circles are not created by a whirlwind. All agree on this point.

(3) Among all the specialized books on meteorology I have read in the French National Meteorology Library in Paris, no case of a set of several circles is known to have been created by a whirlwind or a mini-tornado.

(4) The pattern of a circle of flattened plants created by a true whirlwind is entirely different from the sets of circles in England.

(5) In the field of meteorology, the circles of flattened plants surrounded by "satellites" and "rings" separated by an undamaged area are entirely unknown.

(6) The only meteorologist claiming these sets of circles are created by a whirlwind is Dr. Terrence Meaden, editor of *The Journal of Meteorology*. At the outset of these events, he felt that the circles — isolated ones — were created by a whirlwind. Later on, when sets of several circles appeared (three, then five), he held to the same opinion, hoping all the while that similar cases would occur in other areas and countries. But the circles occurred only in southern England.

(7) I do not know what creates these sets of circles (and the rings around them) but I know that, from a scientific point of view, the whirlwinds are not intelligent enough to sketch them in southern England only.

(8) Consequently, nobody, whoever he may be, can ascertain that these sets of circles are created by a whirlwind or any other natural phenomenon, because everything that is known about effects associated with whirlwinds, mini-tornadoes, mini-dust-devils, et al, argues against this interpretation.

(9) I do not know Paul Fuller, but I know Colin Andrews and his research into the mysterious English circles and sets of circles. He has conducted a fuller investigation than Fuller and has discovered numerous strange clues. Andrews does not think UFOs are involved, but after having ruled out the meteorological explanation, he thinks these sets are created by an intelligent but so-far-unidentified phenomenon.

Jean Sider
Clichy, France

Rendlescam

To the editor:

I wish to thank Benton Jamison for his detailed report on the December 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident ("A Fire in the Forest," *IUR*, September/October 1988).

The confusion any reader faces when trying to sort out the facts of this case is well illustrated. In effect this was a simple series of interviews with a single, peripherally-involved eyewitness. Yet I have great sympathy for Dr. Jamison who doubtless now appreciates some of the problems Brenda Butler, Dot Street and I went through in those years between 1981 and 1983. Then nobody even in British UFO circles understood what we were doing or accepted that there was substance amid the confusion and rumor.

Even now with this new witness, we are really little nearer understanding whether there was one sighting or several and whether it occurred on the night of December 25, 26, 29 or 30. A lot of criticism fell upon *Sky Crash* (1984). (One best-selling American UFO author was recently quoted as calling it a "total mess" and a "failure.") I think this stems from our absolute insistence that we would not leave out material, even when it was confusing, or try to tidy up the loose ends and present a cohesive account without the many contradictions the witness testimony still offers (and offered even more painfully in those early days).

What irritates me more is that such critics sometimes profess to know things about the case that they have not made public. (The above-mentioned author, for instance, said there were things we should have discovered about the story but did not discover — and yet, to my knowledge, he has not spelled out what these dramatic revelations are.)

In this case it is essential that no information — however irrelevant it might seem — be "covered up." We have enough problems coping with that kind of behavior outside ufology — and it is for this reason that Ray Boeche and Scott Colburn have my undying admiration for the way they selflessly struggled for new leads and shared everything as quickly as possible. It is good to see Jamison follow suit because this is the only avenue through which we will discover the truth about this case.

Since Brenda, Dot and I wrote *Sky Crash*, much has happened. Bits and pieces have been published here and there, where possible. But there are a lot of loose ends that someone should tie up. Unfortunately, the British publishing and news media are just not able to cope with the case in any way — by now I am almost certain because of government pressure. Every effort we have made to try to find a serious news outlet for a documentary or a publisher for a sequel book has hit the same brick wall. There is also an almost universal belief that the Ridpath explanation of a "meteor and lighthouse" has resolved the entire affair. For instance, the magazine *New Scientist* has said so. The case was explained. Many sources have remarked on how hysterical UFO investigators blew it up out of all proportion and created a myth.

A book by London *Times* journalist Henry Porter, *Lies, Damned Lies!*, covers in uncompromising style some of the more frivolous stories to appear in recent years and it characterizes this case as one of them. Porter actually does a good job emulating his own title when he tells readers that the Rendlesham case is "fiction" which was invented by the media's "dream factory" — an easily disprovable assertion, but one that has been amazingly influential.

Once I was interviewed by a *Sunday Express* reporter who described himself as a "sympathetic skeptic" and indeed seemed to be one. Peter Hough and I were discussing UFOs and he evidently did not know I had any links with the Rendlesham story. He justified his caution over a photographic story we took to him with the words, "We don't want to get caught up with a bogus story like that UFO-crash nonsense."

After several years of fruitless attempts to persuade the BBC or an independent TV company in Britain to put together a documentary (we pointed out that Nippon TV in Japan and CNN in the United States had done so, and surely the British people have a right to know what is happening in their backyard), we have had to give up. So Peter and I finally interested a freelance film agency — which then spent 18 fruitless months trying to tempt Channel 4, a so-called experimental and serious documentary outlet launched in the United Kingdom in 1982.

Department head after department head explained that the channel did not deal with the "supernatural," only serious topics. Then, on Halloween 1987, the same channel screened a 90-minute special fronted by psychologist Nicholas Humphrey and (we later learned) compiled by the British branch of CSICOP. Its token gesture to ufology comprised a 15-minute "expose" of the Rendlesham case.

Citing Ian Ridpath, it used illustrations from *Sky Crash* without our knowledge or permission and featured not a single interview with any witness or investigator. The people involved told nobody they were doing this and it was by pure chance that I saw it. When challenged later, one of the CSICOP people (or the "Skeptics Society" as they call themselves here) told me they did not wish to contaminate their program by talking with "believers" — among whom they apparently counted the eyewitnesses.

The farcical treatment saw Humphrey wandering around the forest — relating without the slightest trace of doubt that dumb ufologists had manufactured a spaceship crash. When "experts" got to work and found the real date was December 25 and the UFO a meteor (this was learned, by the way, from a single visit to the site), it was all resolved, thanks to the trusty lighthouse. But the dramatic news (later trumpeted by *New Scientist* as vindication of what all serious folk knew all along) was that CSICOP had discovered a further factor. Something other than the meteor and lighthouse was required — a police car. This vehicle had apparently driven through the trees (in reality, virtually impossible given the proximity of trees to each other in 1980 — but hey, why let the facts get in the way?). The flashing blue light had fooled the U.S. Air Force.

How cleverly the debunkers have been able to rid themselves of every troublesome aspect of this case and to reinforce the incredible whitewash that has gone on through the British media. Rendlesham Forest is a dead case — sensationalized by Brenda, Dot and me and confabulated by stupid mistakes and lies by all the witnesses. Only a few crazy ufologists dispute that here.

The brainwashing is now such that not long ago British Astronomical Association president Heather Couper confidently assured a television audience that the case was the result of shoddy work by UFO investigators. Desperate to believe in little green men, they had botched the job, leaving it to debunker Ridpath to do the proper work and solve the case.

When she was asked how many witnesses she has talked with or how often she has visited the site, her answer was none and never. Ridpath hasn't interviewed any witnesses either. He "solved" the case merely by talking with a woodsman who weeks after the event found some rabbit holes which he assumed later to be involved with the reported sightings. That, of course, is not shoddy or botched investigation. Skeptics by definition don't do any of those.

Moreover, I am not committed to a belief that an alien spaceship figures in the case. My most fundamental reason for that is the RAF Watton story (Eastern Radar is indeed a common name for this, as Jamison's source indicated). Here we see that USAF intelligence officers

visited the base to view film of the radar recordings and in doing so informed civilian as well as military personnel that they wanted this evidence because a UFO had crashed near RAF Bentwaters and the base commander had met with its occupants. Then one of these military people conveniently let this slip over a drink to the local mystery writer (Paul Begg) — at the same time as a security sergeant from Bentwaters (''Steve Roberts'') was doing exactly the same thing to the local UFO sleuth.

To my mind that says one thing loud and clear (as do many other clues in this case). The story fed out in this ludicrously slipshod manner was almost certainly false. It was clearly allowed to spread and one can only assume the intention was to use ufologists as agents of disinformation, presumably because something else of great military sensitivity had really taken place in that forest.

The debunkers and the inept media have fallen into all the traps set for them. If any of them had worked out the implications for themselves, they would know there was more to this case than a few silly airmen's mistaking a lighthouse.

It seems certain something unusual did take place. Whatever that event was, it did not involve, I am sure, a UFO. The debunkers have been an even greater asset than the UFO enthusiasts as agents of disinformation.

Every official source of any importance who has looked at this case has not endorsed the debunkers' version. Why haven't they done so if that explanation is correct? One can only assume they prefer to waffle — without actually telling lies — in full knowledge that the debunkers will do the job of spinning fairy tales.

Take Nebraska Sen. James Exon, who was put on the case by Ray Boeche. Not only did he handle all the work himself, talk directly with Col. Halt and refuse direct questions after initial promises, he told Boeche, ''I do hope you realize that we have put in more staff time on this matter than any other case since I have been a U.S. Senator.'' Of course the debunkers would have you believe he did all this over a quickly-demonstrated misinterpretation of just a few lights.

Back in Britain, the former chief of staff at the Ministry of Defense, Lord Hill-Norton, put on the spot by a local TV interviewer, said, ''I myself think it is very difficult indeed to discount the almost certainty that something landed.'' Something from where? he was asked. ''I've no idea,'' he said. ''I wish I did.''

The same local TV station (in Birmingham) even achieved the remarkable coup of recently persuading Roger Freeman, armed forces minister with Britain's Conservative government, to break silence and say, on camera, ''Clearly there was no threat to the American unit based at RAF Woodbridge, or indeed RAF Bentwaters. If there had been, then both ourselves and the American Air Force would have responded instantly. But there was no threat. There is perhaps doubt in the mind — certainly of the officer who reported the incident — what the occurrence was. But there are things which happen every day where you cannot necessarily explain what has happened or why it has happened.''

Why didn't he say quite candidly that it was just a mistake, that the sighting has been adequately explained as a simple misidentification? Are the debunkers telling us it is more prudent to let the UFO rumor simmer than to take this golden opportunity to wipe it out? There is no way a British government minister would be filmed in a prearranged interview on this question without making sure he spoke factually.

Then there is the case of Alan Bond, a scientist concerned with rocketry and nuclear matters, the inventor of the HOTOL ''space-plane'' (a revolutionary development with enormous financial backing). He called me after reading *Sky Crash* in paperback. At first, he said, he thought it was another stupid UFO tale. But he looked into it and was astonished to find facts checking out. Using his high security clearance, he made inquiries, convinced that some secret space hardware had been recovered and then obscured behind a UFO smokescreen. He called me back a week later, told me he wouldn't phone again and was dropping the matter. So should I. He added, ''You are messing with something for which you can easily end up at the bottom of the Thames.''

Again, the debunkers would have you believe that this scientist was frightened by the cover-up of a mistake over a lighthouse and police-car light. Come off it. If the debunkers possess the integrity they so generously and frequently credit themselves with, then it's long past time they did something they have not done to date: start a real investigation.

Jenny Randles
Stockport, Cheshire
England

Fantasy-prone abductees

To the editor:

We thank all those researchers who have taken the time to think about, and reply to, our fantasy-prone personality (FPP) hypothesis as advanced in recent issues of *IUR* (March/April and May/June 1988). Besides the respondents to the ''Letters'' section in *IUR* (July/August and September/October), we have also received correspondence directly from a number of other people.

As with any hypothesis, some have promoted its value or partial value and some have rejected it entirely. But unlike many other theories and as pointed out by D. Scott Rogo in his *IUR* letter, the FPP hypothesis is experimentally falsifiable. Specifically, we would like to have abductees agree to psychological tests designed to assess hypnotic susceptibility, absorption, vividness of mental imagery, response to waking suggestion, creativity and social desirability. For anyone interested in conducting these tests, the 1986 article by S. J. Lynn and

J. W. Rhue in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol. 51(2): 404-408, provides details. Our hypothesis is that abductees would outscore comparison groups on these tests and score similarly to those individuals classed as FPP by psychologists.

Now to issues raised in letters to *IUR*. We do not wish to reply to every point, since ultimately testing the hypothesis will validate or negate its usefulness. Instead we will concentrate on the main issues raised.

Budd Hopkins, referring to abductees, says, "In fact, most all of those I've worked with are not FPPs." He contends that psychological testing of a number of abductees supports this statement. We would like to point out that an FPP is not detectable in general psychological testing but requires the specialized testing outlined above. If Hopkins is aware of the results of such specific testing for FPP characteristics, then the UFO-research community would be indebted to him for its publication.

If, as we suspect, by psychological testing Hopkins is referring to the study conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Slater of New York, then we would like to make a few comments on this subject.

A document titled "Final Report on the Psychological Testing of UFO 'Abductees'" was published by the Fund for UFO Research in 1985 and contained Dr. Slater's report plus comments by a number of prominent UFO researchers.

In opening the report (on only nine abductees) Slater remarked that "as a group they present as very distinctive, unusual and interesting subjects.... It became clear, with only one exception, that they did not represent an ordinary cross-section of the population." She went on to say, "Indeed, in lay terms, several individuals involved in this project might be labelled downright 'eccentric' or 'odd.'"

Later in the report we read that "these individuals show considerable richness of inner life" and "these individuals show considerable flexibility of thought and sensitivity to affect and/or fantasy.... At their best they are highly inventive, creative and original" and possess a "richness in mental life."

We direct your attention to our hypothesis that abductees will test as "fantasy-prone personalities" — that is, have a rich mental life. One could certainly suggest that despite the interpretation by some UFO researchers, Slater's work could just as easily be interpreted as consistent with the FPP hypothesis. Would not Slater be aware of FPP work and have mentioned it in her report if she thought it relevant? No, it should be noted that Slater's report was dated June 30, 1983, and that the earliest publication of FPP work was a chapter in an obscure book in 1981 and another chapter in a 1983 book. Thus Slater was most unlikely to be aware of the FPP work.

UFO researchers pointed out that as this testing did not show evidence of psychopathological disorder, this meant that abductees are "normal people." We contend that in retrospect Slater's work could be indicative that abductees have fantasy-prone personalities.

Jenny Randles' thoughtful reply is appreciated. Concerning the two aspects that we stated were overlooked in *Abduction* (1988) — i.e., multiple witnesses and abductions as a lifelong process — we agree they are discussed in the book. But it was our contention that when putting forward her "best-guess hypothesis" as to the cause of abductions, Randles does not include a suggested explanation for these two factors in that hypothesis.

Randles' reply makes one telling point, one that Hopkins has repeatedly ignored and for which his hypothesis seems to have no defense. Randles states, "Half the evidence supports physical reality, and half does not." The subjectivity involved in abductees' accounts is often ignored by those proposing an extraterrestrial explanation.

Thomas E. Bullard's massive work *UFO Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery* (1987) is essential reading for all researchers. In debating the pros and cons of objectivity versus subjectivity in the abduction cases, Bullard examined 16 factors (for example, "Abduction witnesses are credible people"). His finding was, "The final decision scores nine for subjectivity, six for objectivity. A subjective explanation bests its adversary by a wide margin." This comes, it should be noted, from an individual who has had the best opportunity to date to examine the majority of abduction-report texts. The contents of the full Bullard report (as opposed to the shorter summary) must be read by anyone who enters the FPP debate.

Rogo's reply asserts that the FPP hypothesis cannot account for the physical dimensions of abductions — the lesions and scars, for instance. The literature on phantom organ pain and conversion hysteria clearly shows that dramatic effects on the body can be caused by the human mind. In addition, under "suggestion" people have demonstrated an ability to produce blisters on the skin, remove warts permanently, induce heart failure and bleed from their eyes. The prestigious *British Medical Journal* (August 23, 1952, pp. 421-423) reported that a boy suffering from the supposedly incurable condition congenital ichthyosis (in which the body is covered with a rigid, horny casing) was partially cured by the power of "suggestion" alone. It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest that abductees' lesions and subsequent scars might yet turn out to be products of the human mind.

Dr. Steven Goldsmith's comment concerning traumas is noted. This is a point we had not considered. But his argument centers on "individuals who have recently suffered...." In the case of many abductees, regression hypnosis is attempted months or even years later and not shortly after the reported event, when trauma would presumably be most noted.

Interestingly, despite the field work done by both Randles and Hopkins, their letters demonstrate a dichot-

omy of opinion on such a basic question as to whether or not abductees represent a distinct category of the general population. Hopkins states, "The [Whitley] Strieber case once again proves that the people who undergo UFO abductions ... are incredibly various." On the other hand, Randles says, "In my view, it is all tied up with the overall hypothesis that certain types of people are prone to abductions.... The only obvious clue we have that distinguishes the abductees from anyone else is their superior ability to visualize images in their mind[s]."

Hopkins argues that contactees and abductees should be considered two distinct populations. It seems some researchers have used this argument to try to remove the contactee stigma from the abductee. The abductee is portrayed as a "victim" whereas the contactee is seen as a willing partner. Still, both report contact with aliens. Messages are given to both groups and there are overlapping features. For instance, both claim long-lasting effects on their approach to life after the event; but then so do persons after a religious conversion experience, a near-death experience and many other types of apparent altered states of consciousness. One of the items that have separated contactees from abductees is that only abductees report that the aliens implant something in their brains — a possible communications or tracking device? Yet one of the authors has just interviewed an Adelaide man who crosses this barrier. He is a typical 1950s contactee with messages that the aliens are here to save us, are working among us and wish us no harm. When interviewed he claimed to have, in his ear, an implant which enables two-way communication to be established with extraterrestrials.

In conclusion we repeat our call for specific FPP psychological testing of UFO abductees and publication of the results. To the truth wherever it leads.

The authors may be reached at 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale, South Australia 5127, Australia. We welcome correspondence on this issue.

Keith Basterfield and
Robert E. Bartholomew
Australia

NAS: the final word?

To the editor:

There are many points raised in Mark Rodeghier's interesting article "The Compleat Skeptic" (*IUR*, September/October 1988) that I would challenge if your space and my time allowed. Instead, I would like to focus on his charge that the "official scientific establishment" has ignored "the most important UFO cases that offer support for the physical nature of the phenomenon."

In the fall of 1984 the late Dr. Hynek accepted an invitation to speak at CSICOP's annual conference, in Palo Alto, California. My own talk, which followed his, was titled "UFOs in Perspective." In the closing portion of my remarks I noted that proponents and skeptics often disagree as to whether a given prosaic explanation is appropriate and realistic.

I recalled that more than a century earlier, Congress had created our National Academy of Sciences to resolve conflicting claims about perpetual-motion machines. Since then NAS has often convened panels of the nation's top scientific experts to evaluate controversial issues. For example, in the mid-1960s an NAS panel was convened to evaluate claims made for the effectiveness of cloud-seeding. (One member of that panel was Dr. James E. McDonald, who later became a leading ufologist.)

I concluded my CSICOP talk by saying, "After nearly four decades of controversy about UFOs, the time has come to make use of NAS' good services. I propose that Dr. J. Allen Hynek, as the head of the nation's most prestigious UFO organization, request the National Academy of Sciences to form a panel to render judgment on the UFO question. *Specifically, whether there is, or is not, some mysterious phenomenon at the root of the UFO issue that does defy explanation....*

"Further, that Hynek offer to submit to this NAS panel a report on one, two or even three UFO cases which have been rigorously investigated and *which he is certain cannot possibly be explained in prosaic terms.* The only constraint on the choice of cases is that they involve incidents which occurred in the United States to facilitate investigation by members of the NAS panel. Naturally, the panel would be free to consult all interested parties, including UFO skeptics.

"If this NAS panel should then conclude that *even one of the several UFO cases submitted cannot possibly be explained in prosaic terms, UFOs instantly would achieve recognition as a legitimate scientific mystery — deserving of attention by the world of science and funding by the U.S. government.... The time has come for a bold new approach, and I invite a favorable response from Dr. Hynek and CUFOS — if not today, then soon.*"

Sadly, Hynek's illness and death soon followed, so CSICOP and I never received a response. Now, in response to Mark Rodeghier's recent complaint, I repeat that proposal and hope that it will receive a prompt acceptance.

By this means CUFOS can assure that the "most important UFO cases that offer support for the physical nature of the phenomenon" are brought to the attention of the "official scientific establishment." In so doing, CUFOS can demonstrate its confidence that these UFO cases do indeed defy explanation in prosaic terms.

Philip J. Klass
Chairman, CSICOP UFO Subcommittee
Washington, D.C.

Mark Rodeghier replies:

I appreciate Philip J. Klass' professed concern that the existing evidence for the physical nature of the UFO phenomenon be brought to the attention of the scientific community. In this our goals coincide. But his suggestion that a National Academy of Sciences panel review important UFO cases has little to recommend it.

Klass first asserts, incorrectly, that the NAS was created to "resolve conflicting claims about perpetual-motion machines." In fact, in the standard reference on the early history of the NAS, *The National Academy of Sciences: The First One Hundred Years 1863-1963*, author Rexmond Cochrane writes that the exigencies of the Civil War — the many projects and proposals sent to the government to assist the war effort — stimulated the creation of an agency to give these submissions a systematic review. Perpetual-motion devices played not even a minor role in any of this.

The recent history of the NAS is also conveniently overlooked by Klass. As documented by Peter Sturrock in his review of the Condon Committee report (*Journal of Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 1, No. 1) the NAS is poorly equipped to investigate contentious claims. The NAS review overlooked the intriguing data discovered by the Condon project staff and instead concurred with the misleading project summary of Dr. Condon. Klass, of course, is well aware of the role the NAS played in this controversy, which is why, I suppose, he wants to call it onto the playing field again.

Further evidence of the methodology of the NAS can be found in a 1987 incident growing out of the academy's evaluation, at the behest of the U.S. Army, of the evidence for parapsychological phenomena. The study, conducted by the NAS' principal operating agency, the National Research Council, hired as its two chief evaluators CSICOP officials (and much-published critics of parapsychology) Ray Hyman and James Alcock. When one of the authors of a commissioned paper returned with conclusions favorable to parapsychology, the committee chairman asked him to withdraw them. The final report, titled *Enhancing Human Performance*, claimed to find "no scientific justification from research conducted over a period of 130 years for the existence of parapsychological phenomena" — yet acknowledged elsewhere (shades of the Condon fiasco) that it could not account for the results of some of the research it surveyed. Whatever one feels about the theories of parapsychology, it seems self-evident that the NAS never intended to conduct an objective inquiry into this scientifically-controversial area. The episode does nothing to reassure us that the academy would do any better with another scientific controversy, the UFO phenomenon.

In any case, the history of science demonstrates that scientific controversies are not resolved by the actions of special panels that make some definitive judgment about disputed evidence. Instead, science advances by the production of quality results and theories that synthesize those results and that then come to be accepted by a particular body of researchers. Such acceptance takes time and requires calm contemplation, not noisy public debate. Note that despite the rather heated public exchanges that have recently occurred over the hypothesis that the extinction of dinosaurs was caused by an asteroid, the NAS in its wisdom has not convened a panel to adjudicate the claims.

Scientific matters should be decided rationally and thoughtfully. CUFOS is assisting that process by making important evidence available to the scientific community, especially in its publication of the new *Journal of UFO Studies*, which contains a paper by Erol Faruk on the chemistry of the soil samples in the Delphos, Kansas, trace case. This is how research is disseminated and we are surprised and disheartened that Klass would think otherwise.

Gulf Breeze book

To the editor:

In answering a question about the rumors of a "book," I reflect on the chain of events that finally forced my wife and me to agree about what we should do.

Some people have been influenced by the considerable telling and retelling of the Gulf Breeze story. Sprinkle in a critic or two with an unknown motive to twist a piece of truth into events that never happened and it is understandable how distorted the details can become.

During February 1988 a New York publisher flew to Gulf Breeze and asked me to sell my (very sloppy) log and my wife's diary. I refused because of the publicity that might disrupt our family life. Also Budd Hopkins advised that photoanalysis, lie detectors and psychological tests were required to establish credibility.

Over the past year my principal concern has been the well-being of my family. My efforts to keep our name out of print were honored (with my appreciation) by all investigators and researchers with the exception of Willy Smith and Bob Boyd.

Only after frequent charges that I am a "liar," "hoaxer" and "con man" did it become obvious to me that the complete, accurate story had to be told. So it can be said that Smith's efforts to ridicule me and sweep Gulf Breeze away actually led my wife and me to make the decision to write a book.

I know that this decision will be used against me, but it doesn't matter. Critics will continue to deride the photos and reject the testimony of other witnesses, sight unseen.

Yes, there will be a book. If it makes money, fine; if not, fine. But at least the record will be clear and less easy for a critic to distort. (One recent hoax theory, for example, was based on two separate events, on January

26 and February 7, 1988, 12 days apart. The critic lumped the details together to create and then debunk his own nonevent.) Quite likely the people who write such reports really believe them. I hope the book will make them better understand the Gulf Breeze sightings.

"Ed"
Gulf Breeze, Florida

Strangeness – *continued from page 5*

literature. I am not, however, aware of any others in which the objects — I find myself wanting to say images — disintegrated and dispersed in this manner.

These thoughts, in turn, bring to mind a conversation I had with Allen Hynek — it must be close to 20 years ago now. He had picked up a flashlight from his desk and was waving it about, turning it off and on, shining it on the walls, and then with a quick flick of the wrist covering great arcs or turning sharp corners.

"It would be so simple," he said, "if they were projections." (Holography was in its infancy. He hardly used the word.) He went on, "None of the laws of physics are disturbed; yet here we have appearance and disappearance, hard right-angle turns, incredible acceleration and deceleration — all soundless, of course. And if you could manipulate the molecules of the air to form a screen...."

Simple indeed. But where is the projector? And who, or what, is manipulating it? ■

Pendulum – *continued from page 12*

change its motion from planar to conical. The average period was about 4.5 seconds and the standard deviation was about 0.47 seconds.

I inverted the above equation to find the length of a pendulum when the period is known: L in feet = g $(T/2p)^2$ = 0.81 T^2, with T in seconds. From this equation, if T = 4.5 seconds, then L was about 16 feet. When the natural vibration of a pendulum is disturbed by external forces other than gravity (e.g., by pulling on an attached cord, by frictional forces due to the atmosphere, by motion of the suspension point) the period generally increases beyond that one would calculate from the above equations. Thus the minimum measured period may provide a more accurate estimate of the length of the suspending cord. The minimum measured period was 3.9 seconds. This value corresponds to a length of about 12 feet.

I have therefore concluded that during this section of film Meier's "UFO" moved *in the same manner* as would a pendulum bob that is attached to a suspending cord between 12 and 16 feet long. The pendulum bob would also have to be attached to a cord that would allow it to be pulled in various directions to make it oscillate in planar and conical motions.

Does this mean that I have proven that Meier's UFO was actually a pendulum? You be the judge. As for myself, I can't say that Meier never had a UFO experience. On the other hand, I do not consider Meier's experiences and photos to be valid proof of the existence of UFOs. ■

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Journal of UFO Studies now available

CUFOS is proud to announce a landmark event in UFO publishing: the first issue of the *Journal of UFO Studies* (new series). The journal contains major papers by Erol A. Faruk (on the Delphos CE2), Thomas E. Bullard (on hypnosis in abduction investigation), and editor Michael D. Swords (on the extraterrestrial hypothesis). A forum on the abduction phenomenon, with contributions by psychologists, folklorists and ufologists, examines the mystery from the variety of prespectives. The issue is available from CUFOS for $15.00.

Ozark UFO conference

The Ozark UFO Conference will be held at the Inn of the Ozarks on April 14-16. Special room rates are $36.00 single occupancy and $39.00 double occupancy. Rooms can be reserved by writing to the inn at Box 431, Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632, or by calling (501) 253-9768.

Registration fee is $35.00, payable to Ozark UFO Conference Fund, Route 1, Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127. Scheduled speakers include Timothy Good, author of *Above Top Secret*; James W. Deardorff; contactee Daniel Fry; Norman Oliver, former editor of *BUFORA Journal*; and others.

EDITORIAL – *continued from page 3*

of course, that officials, including Presidents, break the law. They usually don't get by with it, as witness such episodes as Watergate and the Iran-contra fiasco. The reason they don't get by with it is that Congress, prosecutors and the press are watching them. That's why there was an uproar, a year or two ago, when the *Wall Street Journal* fell victim to a disinformation scam that reported, falsely, that the U.S. government was about to bomb Libya again. The story was circulated for psychological purposes; the idea was to scare the Libyan government. A *Journal* foreign correspondent picked up the story and made the mistake of taking it seriously. When the truth came out, the Reagan administration was severely criticized and forced to give assurances that nothing like this would happen again.

In the context of the UFO controversy, however, it is undeniably true that a different set of rules applies. It is an article of faith among this country's opinion-making elite (*New York Times*, CBS News, *Time*, *Science*, et al) that people who believe in UFOs are all screwballs, since UFOs do not exist. Nothing that happens among UFO believers could conceivably be of any significance except to readers of the *National Enquirer*. That being the case, UFO "evidence" is of no interest whatever, regardless of the amount of documentation or quality of witnesses. Because there are no UFOs, there cannot be a cover-up of important information about them. Therefore any testimony that claims the contrary need not be heeded.

In other words, the field is open to any government agency to play any game it feels it needs to play. The watchdogs aren't just sleeping on the job; they're not even *on* the job. The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have never heard of the Roswell incident, much less dispatched investigative reporters to look into it. Supremely smug and blind, they will not know if laws are being broken by official persons keeping UFO secrets; anybody who says they are need only be referred to *Skeptical Inquirer*, or a psychiatrist, to get his head straightened.

It is not true as a general principle, the cliche notwithstanding, that secrets can't be kept. But it has to to be especially easy to keep UFO secrets, since nobody except ufologists, who have no influence and only limited resources, is looking for them. (In the 1970s famous investigative journalist Seymour Hersh made a point of telling *Rolling Stone* that he doesn't do "flying saucer stories.") Nor, consequently, is anybody looking to see if federal laws are being violated by keepers of UFO secrets. Any ufologist who says his phone is being tapped or that intelligence personnel are circulating domestic UFO disinformation is, well, just another paranoid, a harmless version of the guy who tells police that space aliens ordered him to shoot his mother.

What is truth? a famous man asked. Two thousand years later we ask, what is paranoia? Well, it's certainly no delusion, no purely subjective phenomenon. A fear or suspicion that has no demonstrably objective basis is paranoia. That makes the fear that the CIA assassinates ufologists paranoia, but it does not do the same for the suspicion that intelligence agencies are doing other things to ufologists. We know that both active-duty and retired spook types have told ufologists hair-raising tales about EBEs in government custody. There is no independent reason to believe these stories are true, but what's important for the moment is that they're being told by the individuals who are telling them. We also know that some ufologists have interacted, sometimes in curious ways, with these individuals.

What is going on far away from the scrutiny of the usual establishment watchdogs? And what is the reason for it? It must surely mean that ufologists are on to something, otherwise why the attention? But where do reasonable questions end and crazy fantasies begin? Beyond the richly-documented Roswell incident, we have no real evidence of what the government may or may not know, what it may or may not be concealing. That leaves us open to any credentialed liar who comes along — if we are foolish enough to take him at his word, that is.

Under the circumstances, given the bewildering and bizarre nature of events in recent years, a certain degree of paranoia (provided that it be mild and containable) is inevitable. Any more than a mild degree, however, needs an antidote. I suggest laughter. What's ahead of us, as we work our way through Roswell and beyond, is not going to be easy to get to, but lunatic fears, we can be sure, will take us only to never-neverland.

A personal note: By the time you read this, Nancy (my wife and *IUR*'s associate editor) and I will have moved out of the Chicago area and into far more rustic surroundings. We will continue to edit *IUR* and to be active in CUFOS matters. All *IUR* editorial mail should be sent to our new address: 612 North Oscar Avenue, Canby, Minnesota 56220. CUFOS mail (as well as correspondence relating to *IUR* subscriptions) should go to the organization's address on West Peterson in Chicago. In addition to my *IUR* responsibilities (which include my firm determination to see to it that finally *IUR*'s cover date and release date more closely coincide) I will be working full-time researching and writing *The Encyclopedic Guide to the UFO Phenomenon*, which will be published in 1991. — *Jerome Clark*

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CUFOS associates help fund special projects

The past year at CUFOS has been quite exciting, with several new projects either completed or underway. This note will serve as a brief synopsis of CUFOS activities which your generous support has made possible.

First and foremost, I want to thank those of you who contributed to our second annual fund raiser. We did not raise quite the same amount as last year, but the total is sufficient to advance our efforts significantly. Over seven percent of our associates did contribute to this year's fund raiser, a figure that speaks well for the perceived quality of CUFOS activities.

One important project we have begun is a detailed study of the witnesses who report abduction experiences. The working group I have assembled consists of a research psychologist, a sociologist, a psychiatrist and a clinical social worker. We have developed a research protocol to determine exactly who is having an abduction experience. We are also testing the fantasy-prone hypothesis advanced by Robert E. Bartholomew and Keith Basterfield (see *IUR*, May/June 1988) and taken up by UFO debunkers.

There are a few groups of professionals who are engaging in parallel research, such as Richard Haines and his associates in California. This type of activity is the logical outgrowth of the groundwork laid by Budd Hopkins and a handful of others, who have documented the existence of the abduction phenomenon. Now it is incumbent upon serious investigators to examine these experiences closely to gain further understanding of potential causes and to better help the persons who come forward with these accounts.

A second project involves CUFOS in the investigation of one UFO event, the Roswell, New Mexico, UFO crash of 1947. Recent discussions with Stanton Friedman, plus our own independent analyses, have made plain the need for additional on-site and historical investigation at Roswell. Despite the extensive work of Friedman and Bill Moore in the late 1970s and early 1980s, many witnesses have not been contacted or were interviewed only briefly. Most important, in the past few years witnesses have come forward to offer potentially interesting and revealing new information.

Don Schmitt, CUFOS director of special investigations, is heading the Roswell project. He has already made one trip to New Mexico and plans others in the coming year. We have recorded new details about the strange material found at the crash site. We intend to produce the definitive account of the Roswell incident. In the process we hope to document the exotic nature of the vehicle that crashed in 1947 and the government's strenuous actions to hide all evidence from the public.

A third project is now completed. The *Journal of UFO Studies* (new series) is now in print and it is the only academic-style publication devoted entirely to the UFO phenomenon. It continues the tradition of quality CUFOS publications which contribute to our knowledge of the UFO phenomenon and disseminate that information.

None of the activities detailed above could have been undertaken without the generous assistance of CUFOS associates. We very much appreciate your support. And we encourage you to contact our office with comments on this work and ideas for any future projects. — *Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director*